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County leaving money on the table

The county executive and County Council lament that the government has to pare back the budget because of a tough economy. At the same time, in White Flint, Germantown and Shady Grove, they propose to

Commentary

JEFF HOOKE

hand out millions of square feet of up-zoning to wealthy developers for peanuts — mostly in the form of community or agricultural preserve subsidies that bear little relation to the market value of the up-zoning. In reality, such up-zoning has a market value that can be defined and assigned to individual locations. A realistic estimate is several hundred million dollars.

The writer is chairman of the Maryland Tax Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works to help the public understand tax and expenditure policies.